

Attachment A

Part II: Narrative

Section 1.1 and 1.2: SILC Goals, Objectives and Activities

MISSION

The Idaho State Independent Living Council (SILC) aspires to promote a philosophy of independent living, including a philosophy of consumer control, peer-support, self-help, self-determination, equal access, and individual and system advocacy in order to maximize opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and the integration and full inclusion of individuals with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

The Idaho SILC's present Mission Statement was developed during the State Plan for Independent Living Planning Session April 29, 2004 and adopted at the SILC Quarterly Business meeting July 23, 2004. It was reviewed at the SILC's three year planning session on January 25, 2007. It states: The Idaho SILC's mission is to advocate for and achieve independence, choice, self-determination, equal access and equal opportunity for Idahoans with disabilities through systems change, policy involvement and public education. In developing the above statement, Council members committed to the following responsibilities:

- Develop, sign and submit, in cooperation with the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI), the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) for people with disabilities. The SILC will monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL.
- Support the Centers for independent living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities.
- Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, outreach to un-served and underserved populations, and work to expand and improve IL services.
- Develop a plan for the provision of resources to the SILC in the 2008-2010 SPIL.
- Develop and pursue a public policy agenda that results in positive systemic change for people with disabilities.

BARRIERS

Idaho has unique attributes such as beautiful scenery, land that is sparsely populated and a sprawling geography. Although it is the 13th largest state in the union by size, the 2002 residence census figures show the Idaho total population at 1,341,131. This is a 28.5 percent population increase from the 1990 census. Rural areas cover 88.3 percent of the state where 36.2 percent of the total population reside. Changes in federal funding have shifted responsibility for many social services from the federal to state and local government levels and has increased pressure

on state and local budgets in Idaho. This has increased the difficulty of providing quality social services. Economic difficulties in rural communities translate into increased problems for people with disabilities. Some barriers may be obvious, such as lack of ramped entrances for people who use wheelchairs, lack of interpreters or captioning for people with hearing impairments, or lack of Braille or taped copies of printed material for people who have visual impairments. Transportation within and between cities either doesn't exist, is inconvenient, inaccessible, or is too expensive to use. Accessibility of housing, public buildings and businesses are inadequate. Personal assistance services, occupational, physical and cognitive therapies are often not available in the smaller communities or the service industry has too many people on their waiting lists to service all the needs; couple that with poor transportation facilities to get to the metropolitan areas for these services, and people tend not to receive the proper services.

Since the Idaho SILC's inception, it has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based.

Four initial focus groups were held at the Centers for independent living (CILs) to gather input for the new three-year State Plan for Independent Living. In cooperation with Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC), the SILC conducted focus groups in Boise and Twin Falls in September and October, 2006. In cooperation with Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE), the SILC conducted a focus group in Pocatello in September, 2006. In cooperation with Disability Action Center-Northwest (DAC-NW), the SILC held a focus group in Coeur D'Alene in August, 2006. The CILs recruited people with disabilities to attend and provided logistical support to organize the focus groups. A total of 59 people attended the first round of focus groups. The SILC also held a Three-Year State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL) one and one half day planning session in January, 2007. Council members voiced the concerns and priorities that they received from people with disabilities in their communities. A second round of focus groups followed this to review and comment on the draft plan. These were held in Caldwell and Burley and scheduled in Lewiston in April, 2007 in cooperation with the centers for independent living in these areas. The SILC also provided opportunity to comment on the plan through the SILC web site.

A compilation of priorities and common themes from the focus groups and the planning session are as follows: (1) increased availability of accessible affordable transportation statewide; (2) the enforcement of existing civil rights laws and the advancement of the civil rights for people with disabilities; (3) public awareness to reduce stigma and increase understanding of people with disabilities, especially in schools and with law enforcement professionals; (4) access to and coordination of information and resources available to people with disabilities.

VISION

It is the vision of the Idaho SILC to realize the philosophy of independent living in local communities where people with disabilities reside. The SILC's goal is to maximize opportunities and to incorporate people with disabilities into all walks of life by empowering them. The road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systems change. Changes in the individual include recognizing and using the power of peer support and self-help

groups to raise awareness that self-determination is within reach. Systems change includes further de-medicalization, de-institutionalization, strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. The SILC will continue to evaluate existing programs to determine their effectiveness, and then encourage redirection of resources to provide optimum opportunities for people with disabilities. The SILC will also work to promote greater program coordination in order to reduce inappropriate and unnecessary regulatory requirements, which will allow the state to utilize a greater portion of its resources for services to individuals.

SILC THREE YEAR PLAN

OBJECTIVES, GOALS, PERFORMANCE MEASURES, BENCHMARKS, EXTERNAL FACTORS AND TIMELINES

Objective	Goals	Performance Measures	Benchmark	External Factors	Timeline
Increase access to transportation	Identify current services geographically and prioritize needs, with a focus on rural and intercity transportation	A group will be convened and begin work			2007
	Identify new strategies to enhance services within existing programs	Add one new transportation option			2010
	Identify successful models in other states and select one to implement in Idaho	Transportation work group will research at least 5 other state models Increase new rider ship by at least 5%	Current ridership levels		2008 2010
	Seek new funding	Grant writer will apply for at least 2 sources of funding			2008
Support and advance the civil rights of people with disabilities	Increase resources for alternative crisis prevention and intervention in law enforcement	Policy Committee will propose at least one policy change or piece of legislation to address this goal			2009
	Identify gaps in civil rights within existing legislation and address systematically	Policy Committee will propose revisions to address gaps			2008-2010
	Promote early and voluntary	SILC staff will continue to			2008-2010

	access to services and programs, particularly with mental health issues such as involuntary commitments and forced drugging	advocate for access, choice and control in health care, housing, education, employment, and assistive technology where opportunities arise			
	In cooperation with the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities, Policy Committee will hold a legislative policy session each year to identify priority issues	Conducted annually			2008-2010
Influence public perception about people with disabilities	Electronic and print advertising/public relations campaign	Outreach Committee will create media plan and determine measurement tools			2008
	Grant writer will research and locate new sources of funding for campaign	Grant writer will apply for at least 2 sources of funding			2008-2010
	Explore establishing a statewide media center, including a staff person	Grant writer will apply for at least 2 sources of funding			2008-2010
	Increase no cost press releases and media contacts throughout the year	Staff will track number of contacts			2008-2010
	Create content for news stories, features, video releases, web pages	Staff will track number of people reached			2008-2010

Increase public awareness/visibility of CILs/SILC	Distribute materials about SILC and CILs to service providers, school personnel, media outlets	Number of materials distributed 5% increase in CIL/SILC awareness	Staff will survey to determine current level of awareness		2008
	Create a SILC Friends and Allies Network	Each SILC member identifies 5 people in their personal network to add			2009
	SILC staff and council members will attend non disability related conferences and display materials	Increase number of conferences attended by 5%	Each staff person attends at least one		2008-2010
	Ask “where did you hear about us?” in State Independent Living Conference registration materials and when people call the office	Identify most effective methods of increasing visibility			
	Create SILC/CIL poster	Number of posters distributed			2007-2008
	Include SILC events in community calendars	Every event is included			2008-2010
	Identify a celebrity spokesperson				2009
Increase and coordinate access to information about resources for Idahoans with disabilities	Outreach committee and staff will coordinate with 211 program to ensure that disability resources are adequately included	Increase number of disability resources provided	Current number of disability resources provided		2009

	Staff will cross link resource and service links on SILC website	Increase number of links by 5%	Number of current links		2008-2009
	Staff will ensure SILC website is universally accessible	Use WAI web access initiative guidelines and section 508 of the Rehab Act			2010
	Executive Director will participate in State Steering Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and advocate for increased publicity regarding Medicaid Buy-In program	Information about Medicaid Buy-in program is distributed to the public			2007-2008
Establish additional funding resources for the SILC	Prioritize funds for transportation, civil rights, public awareness and community organizing		\$400,000		2008-2010
	Explore other funding alternatives such as social entrepreneurship, signature events, foundation, state general funds		\$400,000		2010
Develop SILC Membership	Membership Committee creates a profile of model SILC member				2009
	Train SILC members and potential SILC members on	Orientation activity each year for new members			2008-2010

	independent living philosophy, roles, legislative process and responsibilities	Annual training calendar established and updated			
	Identify at least two council members who would be willing to serve as mentors to new members	Survey new members to ensure adequate information/training is provided; All members receive adequate information and training			2008
The SILC will plan for succession, disasters and contingencies	Executive Director will create a desk manual	List of major activities, key responsibilities, contact info, state and federal requirements, timelines			2009
	Membership Committee will develop a cadre of interested people to serve on the SILC	Use Friends and Allies Network to keep a pool of 10 potential SILC members			2008
	Executive Committee will develop a contingency plan to operate the council in the event of an emergency	Plan developed			2009
	Create off site computer back up	Back up developed			2008
	Help coordinate disaster readiness training for first responders and people with disabilities	Executive Director will continue participating in coordinated efforts			2008-2010
The SILC will develop	Outcome measures will	Each goal will require at least one			

performance measures	track performance improvement and quality of service	performance measure			
	Track SILC performance to justify increased funding	Planning committee will establish and review annual benchmarks			
	The SILC will hold a collaborative meeting with CILs to discuss performance measures	At least one meeting will be held			2007-2008
More people with disabilities will be involved with the independent living movement	In conjunction with CILs , hold state independent living conference every other year	Increase new attendance by 20%	200 people attend		2009
	In conjunction with CILs, conduct regional leadership activities every other year	Increase new attendance by 20%	Number of people who attended in 2006		2008/2010
The SILC will conduct outreach activities to identified un-served and under-served groups of people with disabilities	Outreach committee will set goals to promote IL with veterans and conduct outreach to veteran's groups	Outreach committee will meet in 2007 to formulate plan Increase mailing list by 10% Visit at least ten organizations	Current number on list		2009
	Outreach committee will develop a plan to promote IL with older people who have disabilities	Outreach committee will meet in 2007 to formulate plan			
The SILC will influence public policy to improve the lives of people	Monitor disability legislation and inform people	5000 legislative reports/scorecards distributed	Current number distributed		2008-2010

with disabilities	with disabilities of results	Continue distributing legislative alerts on disability related legislation	Current number distributed		
	The SILC will convene exploratory meetings to discuss the issue of spouses receiving Medicaid payment as attendants	Guidelines developed Models in other states reviewed			2007-2008
Gain support of new legislators for the SILC's position on disability related legislation	Approach and distribute information to all new legislators	Increase the number of legislators who vote consistently with the SILC's position on disability related legislation by 5% Hold one forum with legislators			2008-2010 2009
	Increase advocacy involvement of SILC council members	Increase the number of SILC members who contact legislators by 10% SILC Membership Committee will identify tracking mechanism and review each year			2009
	Ask experienced supportive legislators to influence newer members, as needed				
Support legislators who currently vote consistently with the SILC's position on disability related	Communicate with constituents through legislative scorecards and	Number of scorecards and updates			

issues	updates				
	Publicly recognize supporters				
	Support them with legislation that is not necessarily disability related but is consistent with the SILC's values and mission				
The SILC will train and educate domestic violence and sexual assault facilities with the goal of reducing domestic violence and sexual assault against women with disabilities in Idaho	Project Director will increase accessibility to domestic violence programs and services	Needs assessment conducted with stakeholders Number of trainings for agencies and direct service providers at all levels			2008 2009-2010
	Project Director will serve as liaison to disability organizations statewide	Number of pieces of information about domestic violence grant activities distributed			2009-2010

Part II: Narrative - ICBVI

Section 1: Goals, Objectives and Activities

1.1 ICBVI Goals and Mission

The Mission of the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired is to promote choices and empowerment for people who are legally blind, functionally blind, or in danger of legal blindness, that will lead to employment, independence and integration into their chosen community.

ICBVI's Goal is to provide Idahoans who are blind or visually impaired the same opportunities as their sighted peers to pursue full and productive lives.

1.2A ICBVI Objectives:

1. To provide training in the alternative skills of blindness to promote and maximize independent functioning in family, community or employment to a minimum of 400 clients each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010.
2. To provide outreach and education to increase public awareness about blindness and visual impairment and the services available through the Commission by attending a minimum of 20 community fairs or conferences each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010.
3. To provide low vision services, aids and appliances to people with visual impairment to make use of their remaining vision to assist them to continue to function independently in home, community and employment to a minimum of 250 clients each year for 2008, 2009 and 2010.
4. To increase the number of Peer Support Groups statewide by adding 2 new groups per year for 2008, 2009 and 2010 for a total of 26.

1.2B ICBVI outreach to unserved or underserved populations:

1. On a yearly basis, the ICBVI Rehab Services Chief will review with ICBVI staff the requirement to conduct outreach to minority and rural populations when they are working with clients in their home or community, conducting outreach or attending Peer Support Groups.
2. Once a year, ICBVI staff will contact the Idaho Migrant Councils in each region to educate their staff about the Commission's services and solicit referrals. They will give ICBVI brochures to be distributed by IMC staff and to be available in the IMC's offices.
3. Once a year, ICBVI staff will contact the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Duck Valley tribes to conduct outreach, provide information and referral and Commission services to American Indians.

1.3B Financial Plan Narratives

1.3B (1) Specify how the part B, part C and chapter 2 (Older Blind) funds, if applicable, will further the SPIL objectives.

See 1.4B

1.3B(2) Describe efforts to coordinate Federal and State funding for centers and IL services, including the amounts, sources and purposes of the funding to be coordinated.

N/A

1.3B(3) Describe any in-kind resources including plant, equipment or services to be provided in support of the SILC resource plan, IL services, general CIL operations and/or other SPIL objectives.

NONE

1.4 Compatibility with Title VII and the CIL Work plans – 34 CFR 364.42(c) and (e)

1.4A As stated in the SILC vision statement above, the road to empowerment includes changes in the individual and systems change. The SPIL includes goals that promote individual and systems change. Systems change in the SPIL includes further de-medicalization, de-institutionalization, strengthened public policies for equal access and further utilization of individual and system advocacy. The SPIL also includes goals that will evaluate existing programs to determine their effectiveness, and then encourage redirection of resources to provide optimum opportunities for people with disabilities.

1.4B The SILC's 3 year planning session included representatives from each of the centers for independent living. Before finalized, the draft three year plan is distributed to all of the centers for independent living for review. The centers also work in coordination with the SILC to conduct focus groups with people who have disabilities throughout the state prior to development of the three year plan.

1.5 Cooperation, Coordination, and Working Relationships Among Various Entities – 34 CFR 364.26

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI and the CILs are committed to fostering cooperation and coordination between the public and private sectors to ensure that appropriate IL strategies and resources are available and to avoid unnecessary duplication with other federal, state, and local programs.

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI and the CILs will ensure coordination and cooperation with other providers of IL or closely related services at the federal, state, county, municipal and public/private sector levels. ICBVI staff serves on the SILC, attend the State Independent Living Conference, visit and interact with CIL staff as well as IDVR regional staff.

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI and the CILs are part of the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID). CID is comprised of 30 disability related member groups and meets monthly. CID's mission is to protect, promote and advance the rights and interests of Idahoans with disabilities of all ages in a manner consistent with the following principles:

1. Meaningful personal choice and self-determination

2. Independence and self-sufficiency
3. Inclusive, adapted, accessible services, residences, transportation, education, health care and employment

The SILC also coordinates with domestic violence organizations in the state to complete the activities of a three year disability related domestic violence grant.

1.6 Coordination of Services – 34 CFR 364.27

The SILC, IDVR, ICBVI, and the CILs will continue to improve their cooperative working relationships regardless of federal or state funding. All parties involved will assume the responsibility to maintain awareness of centers for independent living within the state.

1.7 Independent Living Services for Individuals who are Older Blind – 34 CFR 364.28

Independent Living for Older Individuals Who Are Blind (ILOB) Services

The objectives of this project are to; (1) provide independent living services to the older blind; (2) expand services for these individuals; and (3) conduct activities to help improve public understanding of the problems of these individuals. These objectives will give older blind individuals in Idaho the ability to live and function with maximum independence in their homes and community environments.

New approaches that ICBVI is initiating for the provision of IL services to the Older Blind population include

- Phone tree networks for people to stay in touch when transportation is an issue, as there is no or limited transportation in the major population areas and no public transportation in rural areas, such as Sandpoint.
- Assistance with computer hardware, software and assistive technology issues, as well as some assistance with the training for seniors to use these items.
- Assist clients to get registered and connected to Newsline
- ICBVI coordinates 24 Peer Support Groups in communities throughout the state
- Organize a loaner pool of Closed Captioned Televisions (CCTVs) available for Independent Living – Older Blind (IL-OB) clients to use

Responsible parties: Rehab Services Chief, IL Coordinator, Home Instructors, Assessment and Training Center staff, Assistive Technology staff, Peer Support Group Leaders

Section 3: Design for the Statewide Network of Centers

3.1 Existing Network – 34 CFR 364.25

3.1A ***Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers*** — The Idaho Coalition of Independent Living Centers (ICILC) will, in this plan period, compare consumer record data gathered from each Center's annual report and make recommendations on how Centers can better serve minority populations.

Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) — The Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) grassroots organization that incorporated in Idaho 1988. LINC operates as center for independent living as provided for in Chapter 1, Title VII of the Rehabilitation Act, as Amended. The organization has three offices, located in Boise, Caldwell, and Twin Falls, Idaho, and serves Ada, Canyon, Boise, Elmore, Payette, and Twin Falls counties.

LINC is a consumer controlled, cross-disability, non-residential, community-based organization that provides Information and Referral, Peer Counseling, Individual and Systems Advocacy, Independent Living Skills training, Nursing Home/Other Institution placement prevention and relocation, and a consumer-directed Personal Assistance Services program. LINC also provides assistance in accessible home modifications, assistive technology, accessible transportation, and other individualized services designed to help people with disabilities maintain or regain their independence in the community.

Living Independently for Everyone (LIFE) -- LIFE maintains two satellite offices specifically to serve the main minority populations in the LIFE service area. The Blackfoot office, which is located in Bingham County, serves the Hispanic, Native American and immigrant worker population mainly in the Power, Bingham, and Bannock counties. The Burley office serves Cassia and Minidoka counties. Staff are employed from these communities that know and relate to the cultures and traditions. LIFE service area contains nineteen counties served from four offices. There are 40,426 square land miles in total for these counties with a population of approximately 400,000.

Disability Action Center Northwest (DAC) - DAC serves the 10 northern counties. Services in outlying areas are not equivalent to those in the areas immediately surrounding office locations - Moscow, CDA, and Lewiston. The DAC NW mission is "building community, achieving equality, and creating independence in an accessible world."

3.2 Expansion of Network – 34 CFR 364.25

3.2A The SILC will continue to support the development of a network of centers through the following activities:

1. Advocating for additional state and federal funding to bring all CILs and satellite offices to adequate funding levels.
2. Dedicating the SILC Title VII, Part B funding for leadership development in tandem with the CILs.
3. Using available resources for the provision of technical assistance, which will benefit the CILs.

Should additional Title VII, Part C federal funding become available during the course of this three-year Plan, the funds will be distributed according to the following:

Idaho has determined that CILs in this state need a base budget of \$250,000 in

order for the center to comply with the requirements of the laws and regulations governing centers for independent living. Therefore, all new federal funds allotted specifically to support the operations of centers for independent living in this state shall be distributed in equal amounts to the existing centers in this state until such time as each center's base budget is \$250,000. After existing centers are funded at \$250,000, any remaining federal funds shall be used to bring existing Satellite centers up to a base funding of \$100,000, any remaining federal funds will then be used for the creation of new centers for independent living or new satellite centers on an Idaho Native American Indian Reservation and then in central Idaho.

Should additional Title VII, Part B funding become available during the course of this three-year Plan, the funds will be distributed to organizations at the same percentages as currently used.

The SILC is proposing the following plan to expand the core services offered through the Idaho Centers for independent living.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Work with IDVR, ICBVI, the CILs and the Idaho State Legislature for an adequate appropriation and continue to seek state general funds for the operation of CIL satellite offices.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Work to develop additional resources to support special projects that may be implemented through CILs.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Continue national efforts to increase distribution of funds to rural states.

Section 5: SILC

5.1 Resource plan – 34 CFR 364.21(i)

The resource plan was developed to support operational expenditures approved by the State Independent Living Council. Funds for the plan will come from Title VII, Part B of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, State General Funds, and other federal, state and private funding sources. The SILC will be solely responsible for it's budget and for the approval of expenditures. The resource plan will support the Council's activities, including personnel, operating, and funding projects such as; demonstrating ways to expand and improve IL services, outreach to un-served or underserved populations, providing training regarding IL philosophy, conducting studies and analyses, developing model policies, etc.

Sufficient Appropriation:

It is understood and agreed that ICBVI and IDVR are governmental agencies and this SPIL shall in no way be construed so as to bind or obligate the State of Idaho, SILC, ICBVI or IDVR beyond the term of any particular appropriation of funds by the Idaho State Legislature or the United States Congress (hereafter "Appropriating Bodies"). The amounts set out in the Financial Plan Tables of the SPIL (hereafter "Resource Plan") for FY 2008 have been appropriated by the Appropriating Bodies and are committed for the use of the SILC. However, SILC acknowledges and agrees that if the Appropriating Bodies shall, for whatever reason, hold back the whole or a percentage of the FY 2008 funds a similar amount shall be withheld from the funds committed to SILC for FY 2008. The amounts set forth in the Resource Plan for FY 2009 and FY 2010 are not approved budget requests by SILC, IDVR or ICBVI. It is understood that these figures represent the projected budget of SILC and are included for planning purposes. If IDVR or ICBVI determine they cannot support the budget requests of SILC, or if the appropriation approved by the Appropriating Bodies is different than the projected budgets, for FY 2009 and FY 2010, as set forth in the Resource Plan, ICBVI, IDVR and SILC shall meet and agree upon an appropriate amendment to the resource Plan. If ICBVI, IDVR and SILC are unable to reach an agreement as to the appropriate amendment to the resource Plan, they shall jointly request the assistance of RSA in developing such amendment.

State FY 2008 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds	\$.... 123,100
Federal Grants Funds	
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR.....	\$.....130,600
Violence Against Women Grant.....	\$.....253,700
Office sub lease rental income	\$..... <u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$.....513,400

FOR:

Personnel	\$....211,600
Operating Expenditures	\$.... 96,800
Contractual.....	\$... <u>205,000</u>
TOTAL	\$.....513,400

State FY 2009 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds	\$... 125,000
Federal Grants Fund	
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR.....	\$.... 130,600
Violence Against Women Grant	\$....250,000
Sub lease rental income	\$..... <u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$.....511,600

FOR:

Personnel (FTE 3.0)	\$....213,000
Operating Expenditures	\$.... 96,800
Contractual.....	\$.... <u>201,800</u>

TOTAL \$ 511,600

State FY 2010 Resource Allocation

FROM:

State appropriated funds	\$....130,000
Federal Grants Fund	
Title VII Part B funds to IDVR.....	\$....130,600
Violence Against Women Grant	\$....245,000
Sub lease rental income	\$..... <u>6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$....481,600

FOR:

Personnel (FTE 4.0)	\$....214,800
Operating Expenditures	\$....96,800
Contractual.....	\$.... <u>170,000</u>
TOTAL	\$.... 481,600

5.3 Appointment and Composition – 34 CFR 364.21(b) – (f)

5.3A Council members are usually referred as nominees by CIL directors or other Council members and disability advocates throughout the state. Nomination forms are accepted on an ongoing basis. Selection of a nominee is based upon one's knowledge of the independent living philosophy along with the desire and ability to serve. Full participation is crucial to the success of the Council, so candidates must carefully consider their time commitment and other factors when submitting a nomination form. When a vacancy occurs in a specific category, nominations are reviewed by the Membership Committee. The Committee makes a recommendation to the full Council regarding its selection. The Council forwards its recommendation to the Governor. The Governor appoints all members.

Section 6: Service Provider Requirements

6.1 Staffing:

ICBVI recruits and hires staff that is specifically trained in the provision of IL services to people who are blind or visually impaired. We require a background with either education or experience in teaching the alternative skills of blindness, both on an individual and group basis. We prefer staff that is certified in O&M or Rehab Teaching, however, given the rural nature of Idaho and the scarcity of qualified applicants, ICBVI also strongly supports continuing education and the completion of certifications for all staff who work directly with our clients.

As the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired we have the capability of providing all information in Braille, large print or on tape. ICBVI can also hire language interpreters as needed.

ICBVI provides ongoing in-service training to all staff which includes our statewide in-service as well as sending staff to other relevant training in other states. We are currently developing a four state blind agency training in the Pacific Northwest with assistance from our region RRCEP.

ICBVI practices affirmative action in hiring and have this year hired four staff out of an agency total of 40 people, with vision and other significant impairments.

6.2 Fiscal control and Fund Accounting:

Our fiscal specialist has appropriate control and fund accounting procedures in place for disbursement of IL funds.

6.3 Record-keeping, Access and Reporting:

The agency requires case service records, either electronic or hard copy, on all clients receiving IL services; submits annual performance and financial reports and maintains records that are available to both state and federal auditors.

6.4 Eligibility:

All case service records contain information documenting clients' eligibility for IL services. ICBVI also records the number of individuals seeking information on services and programs for the blind and visually impaired.

ICBVI does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, gender, national origin, race, religion or type of significant disability. There is no residence exclusion from IL services for anyone present in the state.

6.5 Independent Living Plans:

All IL clients are given the option of writing an independent living plan or signing a waiver negating this necessity.

6.6 Client Assistance Program (CAP) Information:

CAP information is presented to IL clients in a variety of accessible formats: large print, Braille or audio tape.

6.7 Protection, Use and Release of Personal Information:

Safeguards are in place at ICBVI to safeguard the confidentiality of all client information, according to 34CFR 364.56(a).

Section 7: Evaluation

The independent living objectives are guided by a philosophy that values all human beings equally and emphasizes the dignity and need for self-determination of all people with disabilities. It supports the right and the opportunity for each individual to pursue a course of action of their own choice.

Each Center for Independent Living (CIL) has in place requirements regarding standards and methodology of evaluation. The Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ICBVI) has in place standards and processes to evaluate independent utilization within the services offered by the Commission. The Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) as an active partner in the development of the state's Independent Living Plan also has in place standards and processes that will evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Independent Living Plan as it interrelates with individual vocational plans.

The SILC will monitor the service delivery provided through the CILs and the functioning of Centers regarding meeting current standards and objectives by receiving and reviewing the 704 Reports provided by each CIL. The RSA will be responsible for CIL Compliance with the standards and assurances outlined in the Act and any on-site visits.

The SILC will request from the CILs consumer satisfaction data obtained by surveys required by the Act. The SILC will monitor this data annually to determine gaps or needs in services identified by the consumer. The SILC will use this information to guide its own policies and program decisions.

The SILC will monitor the service delivery provided by the ICBVI by receiving and reviewing information provided in the 704 Report. The RSA will be responsible for any on site visits.

The SILC will request from the ICBVI consumer satisfaction data obtained by surveys required by the Act. The SILC will monitor this data annually to determine gaps or needs in services identified by the consumer.

The objectives/activities outlined by the SPIL will be evaluated annually. The SILC will review the present goals and objectives to determine their relevancy to the current independent living needs of the state. The SILC in this self-evaluation process, will review the plan, noting the following information:

- a. The activities conducted during the year that have a relationship to the stated goals and objectives, and
- b. The results of the activities conducted, including benchmarks and performance measures.

With this report of the past year's accomplishments in mind, the SILC will evaluate the current goals and objectives to determine whether to:

- a. Continue with existing goals and objectives,
- b. Modify existing goals and objectives,
- c. Terminate existing goals and objectives, or
- d. Add new goals and objectives.

During this evaluation process, the SILC will determine changes, modifications, and recommendations for action in the coming year.

The SILC, IDVR and ICBVI will develop, as necessary, other evaluation initiatives as required by federal rule and regulation.